

ARTICLE APPEARED
ON PAGE A14

THE WASHINGTON POST
11 September 1981

Suspect in Attack On Libyan Flays 'Hearsay Evidence'

DENVER, Sept. 10 (AP)—A former Green Beret charged with shooting a Libyan graduate student last year has sent letters to Denver newspapers complaining that "hearsay evidence" is being used against him.

In a letter given to the Rocky Mountain News and The Denver Post by his attorneys, Eugene A. Tafoya said "the real story or stories" would someday vindicate him. The letter was dated Sept. 7.

Tafoya, 47, is accused of wounding Libyan dissident Faisal Zagallai last October at Zagallai's apartment in Fort Collins.

A link between Tafoya and former CIA operative Edwin P. Wilson, who allegedly armed and trained Libyan terrorists, arose when Wilson's telex number surfaced during a search of Tafoya's New Mexico home. Wilson has denied training terrorists, but told ABC News he recruited Tafoya to teach "low-level squad tactics" to Libyan soldiers.

Tafoya mentioned Wilson in his letter, criticizing authorities for keeping him (Tafoya) in jail, while claiming they don't have enough evidence to charge Wilson in the case.

A decorated Vietnam war veteran, Tafoya said he "served my country honorably and faithfully for almost a quarter century, and am now being denied basic constitutional rights."

Tafoya, who has been described by authorities as a hired killer, claimed that Zagallai supported the Palestine Liberation Organization and Iranian leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

"The PLO which Zagallai said he was proud to support is well-known for its terrorist activities," Tafoya wrote.

Tafoya has been denied a lower bond, according to court documents, partly because he is believed to have substantial holdings in secret Swiss bank accounts.